

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/993,132

Examiner

Kaveh Abrishamkar

Applicant(s)

HAWKINS ET AL.

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received on June 8, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-29 and 43-59.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 08/14/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

CHRISTOPHER REVAK  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

*CR* 8/16/06

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter Shaddock on August 14, 2006.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. Claims 1-10, 30-42, and 60-65 are cancelled by virtue of this Examiner's Amendment.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

5. The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the Cited Prior Art (CPA) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations as recited in the independent claims 11, 18, 43, 49, and subsequent dependent claims.
6. The CPA, Bisbee et al. (U.S. Patent 5,748,738), teaches provides a method of providing irrevocable proof of the integrity of an electronic document by providing digital

signatures of each Transfer agent, along with the certificate of each Transfer Agent. The certificate and digital signature of the Transfer agents are then validated to insure the authenticity of the document. The secondary reference CPA, Vanstone (U.S. Patent 6,212,281), teaches a digital signature protocol which is used to apply digital signatures to messages, and wherein, individual signatures are not required for each component of the message.

The CPA, taken singly or in combination fail to teach every single limitation of the independent claims 11,18,43, and 49. Regarding claims 11, and 43, the CPA does not teach the method for creating a unique authoritative record comprising the steps of computing a partially computed message digest of the authoritative record, wherein the partial message digest is related to a proper subset of the authoritative record, and sending the partial message digest and at least a complement of the proper subset of the authoritative record to a remote location, and completing the computation of the message digest, at the remote location, using the partial message digest, the complement of the proper subset and other identifying information.

Regarding claims 18 and 49, the CPA does not teach the method for creating a unique authoritative record comprising the steps of generating a partially complete message digest at the secure environment of the authoritative record, wherein the partial message digest is related to the beginning information, and transmitting the partial digest from the secure environment of the authoritative record, wherein the partial message digest is related to the beginning information, and transmitting the partial message digest from the secure environment to the remote location, completing

a message digest of the authoritative record at the remote location with the use of the partial message digest the perceivable copy and other identifying information.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaveh Abrishamkar whose telephone number is 571-272-3786. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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08/15/2006

CHRISTOPHER REVAK  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Cell 8/16/06